S. 1737

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a waiver of the 35-mile drive requirement for designations of critical access hospitals.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

June 28, 2007

Mr. Sessions introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a waiver of the 35-mile drive requirement for designations of critical access hospitals.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- This Act may be cited as the "Critical Access Hos-
- 5 pital Flexibility Act of 2007".
- 6 SEC. 2. WAIVER OF 35-MILE DRIVE REQUIREMENT.
- 7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1820(c) of the Social Se-
- 8 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i-4(c)) is amended—

| 1 | (1) in paragraph $(2)(B)(i)$, by striking "is a |
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| 2 | hospital" and inserting "subject to paragraph (3), is |
| 3 | a hospital"; and |
| 4 | (2) by adding at the end the following new |
| 5 | paragraph: |
| 6 | "(3) Waiver of Certain Requirements.— |
| 7 | The Secretary may waive the requirements under |
| 8 | subclauses (I) and (II) of paragraph $(2)(B)(i)$ for |
| 9 | designation of a critical access hospital by a State |
| 10 | in any case where the Secretary determines such |
| 11 | waiver is appropriate.". |
| 12 | (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by |
| 13 | subsection (a) shall apply to cost reporting periods begin- |
| 14 | ning on or after the date of enactment of this Act |

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